GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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9MM AND 45 ACP PISTOLS

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DOWNRANGE

BAD CHL NEWS COME FEBRUARY 1



Todd Woodard

In a startling move, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring announced on December 22 that Virginia will sever concealed handgun permit (CHP) reciprocity ties with 25 of 30 states. This will affect hundreds, maybe thousands, of Gun Tests readers who reside in Tennessee and other states bordering the Commonwealth, and perhaps millions of people nationwide.

Effective Feb. 1, 2016, — about the time this issue arrives in your mailbox —Virginia will no longer honor carry permits from the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The following permits will continue to be recognized: West Virginia, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah. The move also means several states will no longer recognize Virginia's concealed-carry permits because they require mutual recognition of permits. Those include Florida, Louisiana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wyoming.

Speaking about this audit and update, Attorney General Herring said, "Virginia, and nearly every other state in the country, have recognized that carrying a concealed handgun is a significant responsibility that should be extended only to those who have gone through a process to prove a level of competency and responsibility."

"The standards for proving competency and responsibility are up to each state," Herring said, "and the General Assembly has established Virginia's standards for whom it considers capable of safely carrying a concealed handgun. Those standards should be applied evenly, consistently, and fairly to anyone who wants to lawfully conceal a handgun in Virginia."

Herring added, "Under state law, the Virginia State Police can agree to recognize permits issued in another state if that state's laws, disqualifiers, and safeguards are adequate to prevent possession of a permit by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth. For much of the last year, my team and I have worked with the Virginia State Police to conduct an audit and update of the states whose permits are recognized in Virginia. This has been a deliberate, thorough, professional review of the states that supposedly meet or exceed Virginia's standards."

Members of the Virginia House of Delegates criticized the actions of Attorney General Herring.

"The House of Delegates will immediately begin a careful review of the Attorney General's findings," said Speaker William J. Howell of Stafford. "Unfortunately, I have little doubt as to his true motivations. He is damaging the integrity of the office he holds."

"This is another Washington-style overreach from a nakedly partisan attorney general," said Delegate Rob Bell of Albemarle."The attorney general's

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Consult Value Guide for Snubbies

The December 2015 issue had a big compilation of these short-barrel handguns we've tested. A Montana reader asks for more magazine testing, and we dish how we set up our gun trust.

Needs Snubby Advice

I'm a long-time customer and would like to get three or more comparisons of 357 Magnum lightweight snub-nose revolvers. I want to give my 73-year-old female cousin a few choices to consider with price and performance noted, in particular, a 6-shot revolver, preferably with smooth edges and hammerless. I know of no better people with whom to inquire about this than Gun Tests.

— Winslow

Hey Winslow: Check page 31 of the December 2015 issue for a wrap-up of 17 snubbies in a variety of chamberings. In particular, however, check out the Ruger LCR No. 5401 38 Special +P, which we reviewed in the November 2013 issue (Grade A-, shown in the image in the next column).

The LCR (Light Compact Revolver) was a radical departure for Ruger when it debuted in 2009 with its use of polymers, aluminum, and steel construction. What is also radical in the LCR is that there is no hand-fitting of parts, which helps keeps the cost of labor down, as well as the price. The polymer fire-control housing makes up the grip and trigger guard, while the frame assembly is aluminum. The LCR can handle +P loads. Recoil is a non-issue with standard 38 Special loads.

I know you specified you wanted a hammerless version, but your cousin may prefer an exposed-hammer model, such as the Smith & Wesson Model 60 #178013 357 Magnum reviewed in the September 2014 issue. Reason: Cocking the hammer allows for single-action firing, which can help if her grip-strength is compromised. This is an excellent choice for a concealable



or home revolver because it is thin, lightweight, has an excellent trigger in both single action and double action, and has usable sights.

— Todd Woodard

Re "2015 Index," January 2016

The index shows the captioned rifle being reviewed in November. When I go online for past reviews, I only find a 2007 review, and it was not from November, as stated in magazine. The 2007 review is prior to Bushmaster selling the company, and I am looking for review of the rifle after the company was sold. Have you reviewed the rifle since the 2007?

—J

*In the 2015 Index, which appeared in the Gun Tests January 2016 issue on pages 28-31, the * beside a gun name designates a particular firearm as being an abbreviated mention in Downrange, Short Shots, a sidebar, or in a Value Guide. That * notation is listed at the bottom of each page of the index. The * Bushmaster Patrolman's Carbine BCWA3F 16M4 you're looking for*

GUN TESTS REPORT CARD GRADING

Gun Tests Grade: A

A gun with this rating functions perfectly, shoots accurately, and exhibits comfortable, easy use for its owner. We may prefer one gun over others based on its unusual accuracy, superior performance, unusual features, or nice cosmetics. We recognize such a gun for these traits without regard to its cost.

Gun Tests Grade: B

We give this ranking to a gun that functions appropriately for its category, but which might not do as well in major areas as an **A**-ranked gun.

Gun Tests Grade: C

We may have reservations about some aspect of a gun's performance or pricing. We express those reservations so the reader can balance our concerns with his or her needs.

Gun Tests Grade: D

Some aspect of a gun's performance — in particular, safety, function, or accuracy — doesn't meet our standards and isn't easily resolved.

Gun Tests Grade: F

Some aspect of a gun's performance is dangerous, inappropriate for the category, or is likely to fail.



was included in the November 2015 issue, in a Value Guide of AR-15 rifles, on page 12, 6 entries from the top of the page. The original review, as the Value Guide says, was from October 2007, on page 24. We have not done another review on that rifle. — tw

Re: "Higher-Retention Holsters for Open Carry, Part I," January 2016

The Blackhawk GripBreak 421903BK holster seems like just the ticket for this coming year for those of us who are predisposed to reject Kydex and plastic holsters for reasons of them being ugly and inelegant. Problem is, no one has the GripBreaks. Blackhawk's website provides no information on direct ordering. Carter's Country and Fountain Firearms in Houston basically said, "Huh?" when asked about the holster. You did a good article on the options; now if I could just get hold of the one you rated highest. **— Goldy**

The BlackHawk.com site currently doesn't allow online ordering. It said, "We're making some exciting changes at BlackHawk.com. In preparation, we have temporarily suspended our eCommerce platform, and you are unable to order products off of our site at this time. The good news is, this is not permanent, and we have a number of our retail partners ready to help you purchase our products at great prices. Please see the list below. We've also added a Dealer Locator to help find a store in your area. Enter your information to track down our latest gear." We saw where the two retailers you mentioned were part of the list, and we're sorry they couldn't help you. But we typed in "421903BK BlackHawk Holster for sale" in a browser search and got back several dozen online sites that can get the holster to you. — tw



Re "Schmidt-Rubin Model 1911: A Superb Straight-Pull Rifle," January 2016

My issue arrived today, and if this sets the standard for 2016, you fellers will be working hard. What a great way to start!

Check your Schmidt-Rubin for a possible Christmas present. Remove the buttplate and see if there is anything under it. Many original owners wrote a personal note or ID and hid it under the plate.

Don't know if you grew up in an area like me, where local department stores, like Rose's, sold all manner of import rifles like K98s and Enfields, along with M1 Carbines. How many of us just passed them up and wish we could go back to that era and buy them all now?

I didn't know to keep my '68 Dodge Charger either; who would have guessed they would sell in the $150,000 range 40 years after I sold it for $400? **— Charlie**

Apparent Shortage of 22 LR Cartridges

Hi, Todd: For more than 2½ years, I haven't been able to partake in my favorite activity of plinking with my Remington Fieldmaster 572, which I was able to obtain when I was 16, back in 1962 when I lived in Manlius, New York. For close to 50 years I have enjoyed this fun activity, but for some reason, no local stores carry 22 LR cartridges anymore. I traveled about 60 miles to a big city in Iowa, and sporting-goods dealers there were out, too. They even said they thought the Department of Homeland Security just bought 3 million dollars



worth of this ammo — which blew me away. If you know, what gives with this shortage?

— Ed

Hey Ed: 22 LR has been in short supply for a couple of years now, but I hadn't heard of a DHS buy of 22 ammo prior to your note. But $3 million isn't that big an order when we're talking billions of rounds of rimfire ammo. What the ammunition makers tell me makes economic sense: 22 LR has less margin in it than centerfire rounds, and they're working three shifts to cover the demand for standard centerfire handgun and rifle ammo — 9mm, 45, 223, and so on. The 22 quantities being made are about the same as they've always been, but demand is so much higher across the board, it disappears, and there's no economic incentive for the major makers to ramp up a lot more 22 LR manufacturing. Now, the next question is, why the heightened demand? I think people are scared. We are buying while we can. It looks like 2015 will set an all-time high for gun sales, and guns chew up ammunition. A lot of folks are entering the gun culture, and they get started, often, with 22 LR, for the same reasons you liked to shoot it. Hope this explains the shortage, at least as I see it. I'd suggest you go to Ammoseek.com and see what you can find — I also have alerts set at several retailers, and I buy a brick (500 rounds) every couple of months to have on hand. — tw

Gun Trust

When you set up your gun trust to buy a suppressor, did you go through an attorney or did you use

a canned program like the one on Silencerstore.com? Thanks for your time and for helping me out.

— Frank, a longtime subscriber

I actually went through the retailer, Full Armor Firearms in Houston, who set up the trust as a legal container for a silencer I bought from them. So, I assume SilencerStore.com would do the same thing. However, looking back on it, I wish I had used an attorney, such as U.S. Law Shield, just in case. — tw

How About a Magazine Test?

I'm a longtime subscriber, but I don't recall ever reading a test and comparison of aftermarket magazines from companies such as Mec-Gar, Triple K, Pro Mag, etc. I have my own opinions of these and other brands, but rather than recite anecdotal experience, I'd like to see the results of any independent testing you have done. Any chance you'll be doing such a review in the foreseeable future? If so, I suggest you not just include the staple 1911, Glock, and AR mags, but also some of the rarer stuff for older, out-of-production pistols such as Star, Luger, Astra, etc. Keep up the good work!

— William M. Kohnke
Paladin Armory
Elliston, Montana

We have already done a comprehensive test of AR-15 magazines in the May 2014 issue. They were grouped into polymer and metal bodies, with the 10 polymer magazines being Command Arms Accessories 30-Round Polymer Magazine, IMI Defense Polymer 30-Round AR-15 Magazine, ProMag Industries 30-Round Black Polymer Magazine, Command Arms Accessories AR-15 Countdown Magazine, SIG Sauer AR-15 30-Round Polymer MAG55630BLKP, S.W.T. 30-round AR-15 Magazine, Thermold Master Molder Magazine 30 Round M16/AR-15 M16AR1530, Troy Industries Battlemag Magazine AR-15





30-Round Polymer, Magpul AR-15/M16 PMag Gen M3 MAG557BLK, and the Magpul PMag 30 AR/M4 Window Gen M3 MAG556BLK. The five metal-body units were Cammenga's AR-15 Easymag 30-Round EM3556, ProMag Industries 30-Round Blue Steel Magazine, OKAY Industries USGI 30-Round AR-15 Magazine, NHMTG AR-15/M16 30-Round Magazine MA02L, and the Brownells 30-Round Gray AR-15/M16 Magazine w/SS Spring 200200. In our view, the Brownells, NHMTG, and OKAY magazines are excellent examples of aluminum magazines. If you prefer polymer bodies, the PMags were both top choices, with the cartridge-counter window option giving that model the edge over the regular PMag. The Troy was also a good choice. I've assigned a follow-up article to Bob Campbell, who has already begun a comparison of the 1911 types. — tw

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To create your web-access login, you provide your first and last name, the ZIP/Postal Code, and your account number. That's the first 11 digits found on your magazine's mailing label just above your name. If you can't get the account activated, contact us at **Customer_Service@GunTests.info**, or call 1-800-829-9084.

There are two ways to find guns we've reviewed. The Compare Guns feature (top left corner of the page under the logo) allows you to input several descriptors and narrow the search results. Or you can use the Search function. If you search for a common item, such as "22 LR," you'll get tons of references. Basically, the search function finds every instance of the searched-for topic and lists the accompanying articles the topic appeared in. The more specific and unique the reference, the better the search. We do our best to list the catalog numbers for guns we've tested, so that's usually a good place to start. There's also an "Advanced Search" area to help you narrow the results.

We welcome mail from our readers. To send us comments or questions about previous articles in the magazine, email us at: **GunTestsEditor@icloud.com.** *If you'll include the month and year of the article you're writing about, it's a big help. Also, please include your name, address, and phone number. We won't publish your personal information other than your name, but we may need to contact you about material in your letter.* **GT**

9mm and 45 ACP XD Mod.2 Subcompacts Go Head to Head

Springfield Armory compresses full-size-gun features into the newest XD Mod.2 handguns, and we found a lot to like. The consumer's hardest decision will be picking between them.

The compromise that shooters have to deal with in choosing a concealed-carry sidearm is this: A smaller pistol that is easier to conceal is usually more difficult to operate and shoot; and a larger pistol that is easier to operate and shoot is more difficult to conceal. A line of guns retailers have told us are popular carry pieces are the newest Springfield Armory XD variants, the XD Mod.2 series. They are supposedly redesigned XD subcompacts that have better ergonomics, more useful sights, and slimmer profiles. If you are looking for a concealed-carry handgun that offers a super-slim profile, less weight, and better concealability, we suggest you stick with a single-stack pistol like Springfield's XD-S 3.3, which we reviewed in February 2015 **(Grade A)**. On the other hand, if you want a pistol that is still concealed-carry friendly but has nearly double the magazine capacity with the feel of a full-size pistol, the Mod.2 pistols are supposed to fill that ticket. So we tested the two most-popular chamberings of the Mod.2 pistols in 9mm Luger and 45 ACP to see what all the fuss is about. The question that needed to be answered is, are these new guns so good that we would recommend you considering switching from your favorite carry piece? That is a super-high barrier for any handgun to scale, and, ultimately, each concealed-carrier has to make the decision to try them on his or her own.



The 9mm XD Mod.2 3-inch (bottom) and the 45 ACP variant of XD Mod.2 3.3-inch-barrel are close in size; the 45 ACP is slightly larger and heavier. These are subcompact pistols that act more like full-size pistols. We liked both, but our team said the 9mm, when loaded with quality 9mm Luger self-defense ammo, offers more controllability, higher magazine capacity, and a faster second shot on target.



The 45 ACP Mod.2, left, has a slightly longer barrel than the 9mm Mod.2. The 3.3 is also 3 ounces heavier unloaded than the 3.0 9mm, and more than 5 ounces heavier when loaded.

How We Tested

The trend these days with law enforcement is to move to the 9mm cartridge, and many agencies we are acquainted with are using 147-grain ammo. So we selected 147-grain cartridges from Atlanta Arms as well as 115-grain rounds from Black Hills and Hornady. For the 45 ACP, we stuck with the most popular bullet-weight choice, 230 grains, selecting FMJs from Perfecta and Federal and hollowpoints from Atlanta Arms. We had no experience with Perfecta 45 ACP ammo, but found it at a big-box store and thought we'd try it.

We fired for accuracy at 25 yards using the provided flush-fit magazines and a rest. We also fired for speed at 15 yards with both magazines, and with the flush-fit magazines drew from concealed carry using the included belt holsters and a Fobus IWB holster that uses either a large or small universal shell. The flexible backing of the Fobus ensures the pistol stays secure when worn. We practiced dry-firing drills with both pistols using both holsters and progressed to live fire. By no means

could these pistols be dropped in a pants pocket; they need a holster.

Differences and Similarities

Mod.2 pistols are basically a contradiction: compact full-size XD pistols. But Springfield did more than just reduce the grip and barrel and slide length like they did with the XD 3-inch subcompact, which is another pistol we have given **Buy It** rating to in the past. With the Mod.2 series of pistols, Springfield addressed ergonomics in small pistols, which are usually difficult to shoot due to their small grips. Add in powerful rounds like 147-grain 9mms and 230-grain 45 ACP FMJs, and the shooter finds the pistols can easily move and shift in the grip, mainly because subcompacts do not have a lot of grip to hold onto in first place. We all know consistency is the key to better and more accurate shooting, and a good grip is the foundation of that concept. Springfield tackled this issue with the Grip Zone, or three different types of textures placed in strategic places. The three zones of texture provide different types of adhesion. Zone 1 texture is located on the frontstrap and backstrap and provides a good anti-slip surface. Zone 2 texture is the most aggressive and is located on the side panels. Zones 1 and 2 are a type of stippling that our team felt offers good adhesion without being uncomfortable to grip firmly. Zone 3 texture covers the remainder of the frame and has a slight pebble texture.

Accessories

Both pistols come in a hard case with cut foam slots for all the pieces, which included a flush-fit and extended magazines, a belt holster, and belt double ammo pouch, the latter two being made of molded polymer. A polymer magazine loader is also included as well as a lock and bore brush.

Dimensions and Controls

Both XD Mod.2s also have a slimmer frame that measures 1.19 inches for the 9mm model and 1.2 inches for the 45 ACP model, thinner than the 9mm XD 3-inch subcompact and only 0.2 inch thicker than the single-stack 9mm XD-S 3.3 model. Both the 9mm and 45 ACP Mod.2 pistols have heights of 4.75 inches with the flush-fit magazine, same as the XD 3-inch subcompact. The XD-S 3.3 model is 4.43 inches high, making the Mod.2 pistols just 0.3 inch taller.

Aft of the trigger on both sides the frame is a scalloped-out section so the trigger finger of a left- or right-handed shooter lays more comfortably in the ready position. The high beavertail safety and the rear of the trigger guard is relieved to provide a high hand hold on the pistols, making the bore axis closer to the shooter's hand. Team members with small-to-average-size hands, as well as those with large hands, found the Mod.2 pistols comfortable to grip. In some instances, testers had to curl their small finger under the floorplate, while others had enough grip to stay on the lip of the flush-fit magazine floorplate.

The trigger guard is rounded off at the front on both models, which is how many testers feel all trigger guards should be. The pistols featured an accessory rail, which we felt was

RANGE DATA

Atlanta Arms 9mm 147-gr. FMJ	**Springfield-Armory XD Mod.2 9mm**
Average Velocity	816 fps
Muzzle Energy	217 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.4 in.
Average Group	2.0 in.

Hornady Steel Match 9mm 115-gr. HAP	**Springfield-Armory XD Mod.2 9mm**
Average Velocity	1048 fps
Muzzle Energy	281 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.4 in.
Average Group	1.6 in.

Black Hills (new) 9mm 115-gr. FMJ	**Springfield-Armory XD Mod.2 9mm**
Average Velocity	1099 fps
Muzzle Energy	308 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.0 in.
Average Group	1.6 in.

Atlanta Arms 45 ACP 230-gr. HP	**Springfield-Armory XD Mod.2 45 ACP**
Average Velocity	784 fps
Muzzle Energy	314 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.9 in.
Average Group	2.5 in.

Perfecta 45 ACP 230-gr. FMJ	**Springfield-Armory XD Mod.2 45 ACP**
Average Velocity	684 fps
Muzzle Energy	239 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.7 in.
Average Group	2.1 in.

Federal Champion 45 ACP 230-gr. FMJ	**Springfield-Armory XD Mod.2 45 ACP**
Average Velocity	688 fps
Muzzle Energy	242 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.3 in.
Average Group	2.2 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 25 yards. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph with the first screen set 15 feet from the muzzle.

fine if the pistol is stored at home for defense with a small bright light or laser, if desired. The slide-stop and takedown levers were small, which made the pistols more holster friendly. The controls had good serrations and worked positively for all testers.

The real difference between the 9mm and 45 ACP models was the barrel length. The 9mm has a 3-inch barrel and the 45 ACP 3.3 inches. That made the 45 ACP slightly longer than the 9mm. Still, at times, it was difficult to determine which was the 9mm and 45 ACP when they were on the bench.

Sights

Sights are also an issue on subcompact handguns. Springfield equips the Mod.2 pistols with what felt were an excellent 3-dot sight system. The 2-dot rear sight is low profile and snag free as well as flush with the rear of the slide for maximum sight radius. The back portion of the sight is serrated to cut glare, which it did well during high-noon testing.

The red-fiber-optic front sight gathers light when it is available, making the front tube bright and easy to acquire. In low-light situations, we found the red-dot contrast was also easy to acquire. The front-sight blade is also serrated to reduce glare. The sights are dovetailed into the slide, so they are fairly simple to replace or upgrade, if you desire, but we would keep them as they came.

Magazines

The ambidextrous magazine release is serrated and flush with the grip panels, so accidental magazine drops should not be an issue. When pressed, empty mags fell clear of the well. Even though these pistols come off as subcompacts, they feature capacities typically found on a full-size pistol. Flush-fit magazines hold 13+1 rounds of 9mm ammunition, while the 45 ACP variant holds 9+1 rounds. Each pistol also comes with an extended magazine that is equipped with a sleeve over the

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD MOD.2 3.3-INCH SUBCOMPACT XDG9845BHCSP 45 ACP, $593

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Diehard 45 ACP fans will like this pistol for its controllability. In our view, however, the 9mm model offered more with no compromise.





The area on the frame behind the trigger is scalloped for a more comfortable position for the trigger finger.



The Zone 1 stippling texture offered good adhesion without abrasion.



Action	Locked Breech, DAO Semi-Auto
Overall Length	6.5 in.
Overall Height	4.75 in.
Overall Height (w/ext. mag.)	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.2 in.
Weight Unloaded	26 oz.
Weight Loaded	31.2 oz.
Barrel	3.3 in. Long; Melonite-Finished Steel
Capacity	7+1
Slide	Melonite-Finished Steel
Grip Frame	Textured Black Polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	1.8 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.9 in.
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.75 in.
Sights	Fiber-Optic Front; Steel Dovetail Rear
Trigger Pull Weight	7.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.75 in.
Magazines	2; Stainless Steel
Safety	Grip
Warranty	Lifetime Limited
Telephone	(800) 680-6866
Website	SpringfieldArmory.com
Made In	Croatia



The slimmer slide has reworked slide serrations that offer a good grip to manipulate the slide.

Left: When these Mod.2 compacts are easily field-stripped into five pieces, the lineage of the full-size XD service pistol is apparent. They are easy to break down and maintain.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD MOD.2 3.0-INCH SUBCOMPACT XDG9801HCSP 9MM LUGER, $556

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The 9mm model offered faster recovery time, had more round capacity, and was more compact than the 45 ACP model. It also cost slightly less.





The extended magazine on both pistols could pinch your finger if you are not careful.



The 9mm looks out of proportion with the extended magazine inserted, but the added grip gives it a full-size gun feel.



Here are the muzzles, where the sizes of the holes in the ends are apparent. Even before we put in range time, our team was split into 45 ACP and 9mm clans.

Action	Locked Breech, DAO, Semi-Auto
Overall Length	6.25 in.
Overall Height	4.75 in.
Overall Height w/extended mag.	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.19 in.
Weight Unloaded	23 oz.
Weight Loaded	26 oz.
Barrel	3.0 in.; Melonite-Finished Steel
Capacity	13+1 (w/flush-fit magazine), 16+1 (w/extended magazine)
Slide	Melonite-Finished Steel
Grip Frame	Textured Black Polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	1.8 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.9 in.
Grip Thickness (max)	1.19 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.75 in.
Sights	Fiber-Optic Front; Steel Dovetail Rear
Trigger Pull Weight	6.6 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.6 in.
Magazines	2; Stainless Steel
Safety	Grip
Warranty	Lifetime Limited
Telephone	(800) 680-6866
Website	SpringfieldArmory.com
Made In	Croatia



High round capacity is a plus, especially in the Mod.2 pistols, which are marginally larger than Springfield's single-stack pistols.

lower portion of the magazine. It fits seamlessly with the grip frame to give each pistol a full-size grip for flexibility. Also, the extended grip offers an additional four rounds in 45 ACP and three in 9mm. We found that slapping in the extended magazines took a bit of caution, as your small finger or palm of your hand can be pinched between the sleeve and the frame butt. With the extended magazine in place, the pistols felt like full-size models, and as we found out, were easier to control. For the bulk of our work, however, we focused on the flush-fit magazines because that's how they're likely to be carried.

The stainless magazines were easy to load, even to the last round, with those who used their thumbs and those who used the loaders. Witness holes let the user know what remained in the magazine. Floorplates were polymer, allowing for easy disassembly for maintenance.

Slides

Springfield also slimmed down the slides, making the Mod.2 pistols less blocky looking, and the company redesigned the rear cocking serration to be more pronounced for better grip. The team has encountered subcompact pistols that are difficult to operate since there is not a lot to grasp onto. We felt the slides of both Mod.2 pistols were easy to rack with a grasp over the slide-top method or the pinch-and-pull method. We also racked the slides by catching the rear sight on the edge of a hard surface (in case one arm is hurt), and that worked, too.

Takedown

Both pistols also employed a dual-spring full-length guide rod to aid accuracy and help reduce recoil. Disassembly was easy. Remove the magazine, lock back the slide, then rotate the takedown lever clockwise to the 12 o'clock position. Control the slide as you release the slide stop, and the slide pulls off the frame. Reverse to reassemble.

The rest of the Mod.2 pistol is pure XD. Originally designed as a combat



The 45 ACP is shown here, but all XD models feature a cocking indicator; the silver pin protrudes when the pistol is cocked and ready to fire.



The sight picture on both guns is excellent, with big light bars showing inside the rear groove. The side of the sights facing the shooter are serrated to cut glare.



The XD Mod.2 45 ACP above, as well the 9mm model in hand below, have grip safeties, which many shooters prefer and many striker-fired pistols do not offer. On both guns, The high beavertail and undercut trigger guard allow a high hold for less muzzle flip.



Right: An average-size hand can just barely keep the small finger on the grip of the XD Mod.2 45 ACP; still, testers of all hand sizes felt the grip was comfortable. Inset: The 45 ACP with extended magazine offered better control in rapid fire, though most testing was performed with the flush-fit magazine because that's how the pistol would likely be carried.



service pistol, the XD is a large, full-size pistol designed to be reliable and safe in any conditions. Like the XD, the Mod.2 is recoil operated and uses a striker-fired system. Featuring a polymer frame and steel slide, the Mod.2 has a cocking indicator, which is a pin that protrudes from the rear of the slide that can be felt or seen.

Triggers

XDs are known for their excellent and safe USA (Ultra Safe Assurance) trigger system. The Mod.2 pistols tested had a bit of slack, then consistently broke with the feel of a SA trigger rather than the typical striker-fired trigger. Average pull weight was about 7 pounds, which we would want to lighten 2 or 3 pounds. The XDs and Mod.2s also have a drop safety and added grip safety.

At the Range

The team was split even before we put in any trigger time, with the 45 ACP aficionados against the 9mm clan. But as range testing progressed, we found ourselves liking the 9mm more. At first, we expected the XD Mod.2 pistols would shift in our grip during recoil, but we found quite the opposite to be true. The grip textures offered good friction against our hands without abrasion.

We also saw the sights were large and offered fast target acquisition. The pistols likewise pointed well for close work and continued to perform out to 25 yards. Most felt the pistols acted like full-size pistols.

Recoil felt less stout in the Mod.2s compared to other smaller pistols we are familiar with. We attribute this to the grip, lighter slide, and dual-spring recoil guide rod. There was some take up on the triggers — which is fine considering these are defensive pistols — as long as the breaks were consistent, which they were.

With average accuracy of about 1.5-inch groups with the 9mm model and 2-inch groups with the 45 ACP at 25 yards, we were happy. The Mod.2 in 9mm was more pleasant to shoot than the 45 ACP, though the 45 ACP was nowhere near the brute we though it would be. We could also recover faster using the 9mm model, so a follow-up shot was quicker.

Using the Fobus IWB and the Springfield holsters, we found we could get a better grip using the Springfield holster. Many thought a good IWB Kydex holster would be perfect for the Mod.2 pistols.

Our Team Said:

The 9mm and 45 ACP Mod.2 pistols performed like full-size pistols, and we did not feel we were giving up control for better concealability. The additional ammo capacity was a plus. Accuracy was good due to the trigger and sights. If it were our money, we preferred the 9mm model, which offered a good combination of ammo capacity, size, weight, and better control.

Written and photographed by Robert Sadowski, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers. Special thanks to Eastern Outfitters (easternoutfitter.com) of Hampstead, NC.* GT

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT 9MM & 45 ACP PISTOL RATINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Glock 43 Subcompact PI4350201 9mm Luger, $499	Aug 2015	**Grade B+:** If you can carry a larger pistol, you should, but the Glock 43 is a good slim line pistol.
Walther Concealed Carry Pistol CCP 5080300 9mm Luger, $452	Aug 2015	**Grade C:** The CCP had features we liked, but not enough to overcome its complicated takedown and failures.
Bersa Thunder Ultra Compact Pro 9mm Luger, $405 (Used)	June 2015	**Grade A:** Trouble free, capable of delivering MOA accuracy and adaptable to any size shooter.
Smith & Wesson Model 908 103882 9mm Luger, $350 (Used)	June 2015	**Grade B:** The design of the slide resulted in a higher bore axis than the Bersa; lacked an ambidextrous safety.
S&W 1911 E-Series SW1911TA 108409 45 ACP, $1399	May 2015	**Grade A:** The Smith is a reliable and accurate handgun, and was Our Pick in this test.
SIG Sauer 1911 TACOPS 1911R-45TACOPS 45 ACP, $1213	May 2015	**Grade A:** The pistol is reliable and has all of the features needed for a viable service-grade handgun.
Colt Commander XSE O4012XSE 45 ACP, $940	April 2015	**Grade A:** The ambidextrous safety, forward cocking serrations, and frame cut gave the Colt superior handling.
Remington R1 Commander 96336 45 ACP, $573	April 2015	**Grade B:** This is a traditional 1911 Commander with no extraneous features and good fit and finish.
Heckler & Koch VP9 9mm Luger, $630	March 2015	**Grade A:** Ergonomics are excellent. Hand fit can be customized, with more extra panels than the other handguns.
Walther PPQ M2 Navy SD 2796082 9mm Luger, $576	March 2015	**Grade B:** Mag release was too light for a defensive handgun. Sights were not well regulated for 115-grain ammo.
SIG Sauer P320 320F9BSS 9mm Luger, $579	March 2015	**Grade B:** Lack of an easily changeable grip strap and heavy trigger were demerits. Also the heaviest.
Springfield Armory XD-S 3.3 XDS9339B 9mm Luger, $494	Feb 2015	**Grade A:** Our Pick, the XD-S was a great shooter. The pistol was reliable. We liked the safety features.
Ruger LC9s Standard #3235 9mm Luger, $339	Feb 2015	**Grade A:** Best Buy. We found the Ruger to be reliable and accurate enough. The price is low for a reliable handgun.
Beretta BU9 Nano JMN9S15 9mm Luger, $369	Feb 2015	**Grade B-:** We rated the pistol down for its small sights, heavy trigger, and worst-of-group accuracy.
Beretta 92A1 Compact Inox with Rail J90C9F20 9mm Luger, $650	Nov 2014	**Grade A:** Stainless-steel construction, manual safety, light rail, and excellent accuracy added up to high marks.
Smith & Wesson M&P9c 209004 9mm Luger, $480	Oct 2014	**Grade A-:** This subcompact is as slick as possible, with no protruding controls and no manual safety.
Heckler & Koch P2000SK 709302-A5 9mm Luger, $866	Oct 2014	**Grade B+:** A thoroughly modern handgun with good features. Extended slide lock an advantage in combat drills.

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Field Test: Higher-Retention Holsters for Open Carry, Part II

This month, we look at seven more units to consider for OC: The Bianchi Evader, DeSantis Quick Safe and Prowler, Safariland's 578 ProFits and 6378 ALS, and Blade Tech's WRS Level 3.

In the first part of this feature last month, we noted that handgun retention for those who practice open carry is a prime consideration. Civilians, in particular, who plan to openly carry their firearms — such as our Texas readers were able to do for the first time on January 1, 2016 — must now be concerned with the safety considerations of out-in-the-open carry. We recognize that some legal gun owners will want to open carry, so the gun owner must maintain control of a carry firearm while still having fast access to it.

To see how manufacturers provide this extra security, we assembled a collection of 12 currently available holsters that supply more retention than most concealed models. In the first installment, we covered the Blackhawk GripBreak, DeSantis Facilitator, Galco M4X and M6X, and the Hogue ARS C.

Our test holsters this month are the $32 Evader from Bianchi, the DeSantis Quick Safe and Prowler ($40 and $68, respectively), Safariland's $50 578 ProFit in Long and Standard sizes and Safariland's $50 6378 ALS, and Blade Tech's $124 WRS Level 3. By mounting each holster on a Blackhawk Instructor Gun Belt ($37 from OpticsPlanet.com), we made sure any failure from our vigorous attempts to snatch a gun would be traced back to the holster and not to the belt.

We challenged retention using two types of grips, "educated" and "freestyle." The educated grip describes how an instructor might handle the gun, with the trigger finger held straight alongside the frame with three fingers wrapped below the trigger guard, thumb hugging the opposite side of the pistol. The freestyle grip started with all four fingers beneath the trigger guard and thumb wrapped around the other side. We also tried grabbing the gun with the left hand from a right-hand-side-mounted holster.



Our second group of high-retention holsters included, from left to right, the Safariland 6378-53-411 ALS, BladeTech WRS Level 3, and Safariland 578-83-411 ProFit Standard GLS. Our top pick was the $56 Safariland ALS holster. The thumb drive was almost completely out of view and tucked in giving the wearer the best possible access. Center, BladeTech's $124 WRS Level 3 holster relied upon a retractable cross strap or "bale" to keep the gun in place. Left, the $56 Safariland ProFit GLS provides a very fast draw, but in our tests the gun was released almost automatically, no matter how we gripped the gun.

In the interest of security, we're not going to tell you everything we learned about drawing from these high-retention holsters — just whether or not they might help protect you from a gun grab.

Safariland 6378-53-411 ALS, $56

Safariland's Model 6378 holster was fashioned from a synthetic laminate similar in look and feel to polymer. This moderately concealable holster was lined with suede and arrived with a paddle in place that locked



The Safariland ALS holster nearly covered the pistol to reduce access and protect the gun from damage.



Front left to right are the Bianchi Ranger Evader and DeSantis Prowler. In back is the DeSantis Quick Safe. The Carrylok system found on the Bianchi Ranger series Evader ($32) offered a telltale lever that required a long sustained motion to release the pistol. We think the $68 DeSantis Prowler (bottom right) is best worn as an inside-the-waistband holster and, indeed, concealed. That's because the release lever on the outside is just too difficult to miss when grabbing for the gun, in our estimation. The $40 DeSantis Quick Safe requires that two levers, each independently locking down on the trigger guard, be released at the same time. We think it's a great idea, but we found the release paddles were just too big to avoid being pressed during a gun grab.



The interior of the Safariland ALS holster was lined with waterproof velour. Belt loops were supplied, but the paddle offered excellent comfort and support. Connection to the belt was so strong, it was tough to remove when gearing down for the night.

securely onto the pants below the belt line. We found this unit difficult to remove even when not wearing a belt. The paddle was large and form fitting, spreading the weight of our Springfield Armory 1911A1 pistol with 5-inch barrel evenly and comfortably. A belt-loop panel and hardware were also provided to accommodate 1.5-inch-wide to 1.75-inch-wide belts. Belt retention in either case was without failure. The body of the holster was a perfect fit, covering all but the handle, including the upgraded Heinie Straight 8 sights. The right-side safety paddle was exposed, however, and could be deactivated. A pistol with a left-side-only thumb safety would be that much more secure. The thumb-drive release for the locking mechanism was well hidden along the inside of the holster below its top line, approximately where we would stage our thumb to be ready to interact with the safety. But the thumb safety was not accessible until the gun had been raised from the holster about 1.5 inches.

Our Team Said: We found only a limited amount of angles from which the gun could be drawn — a good thing. Held in the Safariland 6378-53-411 holster, our gun was extremely well protected from damage that could result from rolling around on the ground during a fight for the pistol. Thanks to the ALS, perhaps the most effective system found in our tests, and a solid belt mount, there's a good chance the gun may well stay in place long enough for a ground fight to conclude and the user get enough working space to safely draw the pistol.

Gun Tests Grade: A

Blade Tech WRS Level 3 Holster, $124

Blade Tech's WRS Level 3 holster is a good example of a duty-style holster that could also serve the private citizen. The WRS Level 3 is a full-coverage polymer holster affixed to a belt-loop hanger with 2.2-inch loops that was adjustable for cant. It positioned the unit slightly away from the wearer so there was enough room to operate the two thumb-drive retention units. Actually, only one of the dual thumb-driven levers was the actual retention release. The outer drive prevented access to the release-drive lever with a detent-style lock of its own, delaying, if not foiling, operation of the primary release. A similar Blade Tech holster without this extra lever is also available and is referred to as the WRS Level II.

Our WRS Level 3 was the FDE





Far left, near left, and below. The BladeTech WRS Level 3 holster's thumb drive was protected by a separate lever with its own detent that proved difficult to overcome from any angle other than the position of the wearer. Bridging the gap to uniform gear, this was a very solid choice for open carry. Given this leans toward being a duty holster, it is also somewhat bulky. But so is a bank vault.





(flat dark earth) color option instead of the standard black, and it fit our Glock 17 perfectly, locking the gun in place. But without the hood or "bale," which consisted of a heavy synthetic strap across the back of the gun, retention was barely enough to prevent the gun from falling out when the unit was held upside down. While stability was solid, the only protection against a gun grab was when the hood was in place. The outer protection lever was a good addition, however, because it took some real attention from the operator to push it fully out of the way.

Our Team Said: The WRS Level 3 sends out a very clear message that the gun is locked down. This alone may deter a gun grab. While somewhat complicated, when the WRS is fully closed, a practiced owner of this unit should have a great advantage in holding on to his or her self-defense pistol.

Gun Tests Grade: A-

Bianchi Ranger Evader 4584, $32

The Bianchi Carrylok system has been around long enough to be used in one of the first extra-retention holsters offered to the public. The Ranger designation indicates Cordura-nylon construction rather than leather, as found in the $78 Bianchi Model 82 holsters. The Evader had wrap-and-snap belt loops that enabled the user to apply or remove the holster with taking off the belt. This is helpful when encountering a facility that is off limits to civilian carry, such as a hospital, and the gun needs to be stowed temporarily. Belt retention was solid, without fail, unless your attacker chooses to release the belt-loop snaps. But the attacker still might not get the gun even with the belt loosened. To forestall such a problem, members of our staff said they would epoxy-weld the snaps shut and give up the convenience.

Less able to conform to the body than leather belt loops, such as those found on the Carrylok Model 82 holsters, the Evader was more comfortable when mounted along a straight surface line, such as behind or just in front of the hip.

With the release lever sticking out for all to see, one might think this design was too obvious, making a grab for the gun easier. But attempts to draw from the Evader were almost too awkward for the rightful wearer,





Left: The Bianchi Ranger series Evader's lever movement was more difficult to perform than an onlooker was might believe. The wearer should have an advantage based on familiarity. Right: The snap-and-wrap belt loops were convenient for a quick on/off without removing one's belt, but we'd glue them shut to keep the unit attached to the belt. Or we would choose another Bianchi Carrylok holster with solid belt loops.



With the Safariland GLS holsters, anyone who has access to the grip of the gun from almost any angle is going to be able to remove it. The Pro-Fit holsters might be a great choice for the competitive shooter concerned with weapon retention while helping with chores such as taping and resetting targets.



and should prove even more difficult for a stranger trying to snatch the gun. Rather than making the user get a full grip, the Evader requires the middle finger be extended to press in the release. This means the gun is actually grabbed by only the ring finger and pinky finger opposite to the thumb. The release motion of the lever was long, and pressure on the release lever needed be sustained for the gun to be drawn. To attack this device, a gun grabber might need to use two hands, making him or her more vulnerable to a counterattack.

Our Team Said: Unlike most of the new higher-retention holsters, the Bianchi Carrylok system seems to focus more on security than on convenience. Even if the release draws attention, the reality is that only a practiced hand is going to be able to draw the gun easily from this holster.

Gun Tests Grade: B+

Safariland 578-83-411 ProFit Standard GLS, $55
Safariland 6378-53-411 ProFit Long GLS, $56

The Safariland Pro-Fit series utilizes the GLS "Pro-Fit" system, which is adaptable to fit more than 60 firearms securely. Both the Long and Standard holsters are made from a lightweight nylon blend referred to as SafariSeven. Our Standard Pro-Fit was used for our Glock 17, and our Long Pro-Fit held a full-sized Springfield Armory 1911A1. Delivered with a paddle in place, an adjustable belt loop, capable of both crossdraw and strong-side carry, was supplied. Belt retention in either case was without failure.

Weapon retention was via Safariland's Grip Lock System that is released via the middle finger as the hand takes a natural grip on the weapon. The Pro-Fit holsters provided comfortable carry and user-friendly grip angles. The guns could be drawn extremely quickly.

Our Team Said: We think the Pro-Fit holsters with GLS retention are more suitable for training or competition than for open carry. There was almost no way to grip the pistol while it was in the holster and avoid releasing the handgun.

Gun Tests Grade: D



The Galco M6X (left) and the Safariland ALS holster were our two top picks for civilian open carry. But without the integrity of rigger's-style Instructor Belts from Blackhawk, we might not have been able to ensure the holsters were the weakest link. Our tests included live wrestling, as well as tugging on the guns while mounted to a secured mannequin using every grip we could imagine.

DeSantis Quick Safe 122KJB2Z0, $40

The key to making the Quick Safe ambidextrous was the Redi-Loks that lock into the trigger guard from both sides. The trick was to release both of the locks simultaneously. Compressing only one release lever is not enough to free the sidearm.

Our staff was split on how effective the dual levers were on release. The inner release lever was tight against the body and, for the most part, out of sight. Whereas the outer lever may be inviting, the inner lever may go completely unnoticed, yet anyone who gets the thumb between the holster and the wearer's body is likely to release the weapon. Mounting of the holster pod can be adjusted to





Currently, the DeSantis Quick Safe is only available to fit Glock models G17, G22, and smaller. But it may nevertheless be the most imaginative design in our roster. Constructed of heavy Kydex and a glass-reinforced polymer with heavy duty hardware, the Quick Safe is a belt-slide design that is ambidextrous. The holster pod can be attached to the belt loop bracket from either side. The opening in the belt loops can be adjusted to accommodate belts up to 1¾ inches wide, with shims held in place by Allen screws to accommodate smaller ones. Belt retention was without failure, we found.



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Left: The Prowler holster was a half-shell riveted to a backing that forms to the curvature of the body. Right: The shell covers much of the slide on the right-hand side of the gun. A single Redi-Lok latch (arrows) fits inside the trigger guard. Open on the bottom, the Prowler holster allows guns of different barrel lengths (but built on the same frame) to share the same holster. We would prefer it for secure inside-the-waistband carry.

add a slight muzzle-back cant, but we doubt this would have any effect on restricting access.

Our Team Said: DeSantis refers to the Quick Safe as a Level III holster, probably because you can release one of the Redi-Loks and still retain the handgun. But grabbing the gun could easily release both locks and the weapon. We think it would be much improved if it were possible to somehow lock one or both of the release levers. Otherwise, this is a very rugged and fast holster for very little money.

Gun Tests Grade: D

DeSantis Prowler 120KAB2Z0, $68

The Prowler holster consists of what could be referred to as a half-shell riveted to a synthetic, leatherette backing that comfortably forms against the curvature of the body. The shell covers much of the slide and the right-hand side of the gun. It was attached to the framework that supports the single Redi-Lok, which latches to the inside of the trigger guard. Belt slots measuring 1.75 inches in width were cut into the backing that completely shielded the gun from the body. The Prowler also arrived with J-shaped loops bolted on to the backing that can be slipped over one's belt and waistband to anchor the unit for inside-the-pants carry. The belt can also be threaded through the outer loops and across the holster to pull the gun in tighter and make it less vulnerable to a grab.

The Prowler holster was open on the bottom, so guns of different barrel lengths built on the same frame can share the same holster. Given the exposed muzzle, we think most buyers will utilize the Prowler for inside-the-waistband carry. Inside-the-waistband carry hides the gun best and brings it closer to the body, offering an extra degree of retention. The manufacturer claims the clips can be adjusted for ride height and cant, but, in our view, only the latter is plausible and then only to a small degree. In addition, the clips were intended to offer the ability to tuck in one's shirttail and cover the upper portion of the gun by letting the material blouse away from the belt line. This may be a stretch given the size of the release lever mounted on the outside of the holster body.

Our Team Said: For open carry, the size of the release lever was too easily operated by incidental contact, we believe. The Prowler picks up some retention points when carried inside the waistband.

Gun Tests Grade: F (OTW)
Gun Tests Grade: D (ITW)

Written and photographed by Roger Eckstine, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.*

DPMS and POF 308 Semi-Autos: Heavy Hitters, or Just Heavy?

We tested two AR-style rifles with more oomph than the 5.56/223 Rem. The DPMS LR-308-AP4 was nimble and trouble free. POF's Gen3 P308-20 was built like a tank, and felt like it.

The last five years have been a roller-coaster ride for the gun industry, with an emphasis on AR-style rifles, which at one point were sold out nearly everywhere and were often selling above MSRP when you could find them. Now, AR sales are mostly down, except for a segment of the market that seems steadily abuzz, the larger caliber ARs, most commonly the 308 Winchester chambering. Most of the larger population of AR-15 owners can't be sold on the larger chambering simply because of heavier rifle weights, but steadily emerging, is a group of gun enthusiasts who seem not to be deterred by the extra weight. This is evident by the many 308-caliber AR-style guns on the market today made by many gun manufacturers, including Patriot Ordnance Factory and DPMS. These firms are not newcomers to this market; DPMS, in fact, was one of the first companies to develop and manufacture a line of 308 Win. AR rifles about 15 years ago.

We approached this test as if we were already gun owners, and we were considering whether to add a .308 semi-auto to our existing collection to add range above and beyond what our 5.56/.223 semi-autos could develop. So we chose two slightly different configurations to see what seemed like the better mix of weight, handling, and recoil. One of our test guns was a DPMS LR-308-AP4, which has an MSRP of $1269 in its base configuration (with an aluminum free-float handguard), and a suggested retail price of $1399 with an optional free-float quad-rail, as tested here. It is a 16-inch-barrel carbine with a direct-gas-impingement operating system. We pitted it against a Patriot Ordnance Factory Gen3 P308-20 BLK with an MSRP of $2599. This 20-inch-barrel rifle uses a 3-position short-stroke gas piston system to operate the action (your choice of normal, suppressed, and bolt-action operating modes).

We used a three-person test group for this evaluation, all proficient shooters in their area of interest. One was a longtime AR-15 5.56 rifle shooter and collector. The second





Above are our heavy-hitter contestants: Top is the Patriot Ordnance Factory Gen3 P308-20, $2599, but which we have seen discounted at retail to $1500 or less. The lower rifle, in both position and price, is the DPMS LR-308-AP4, which with an aluminum free-float quad-rail runs $1399, but which can be found for hundreds less. Right, the POF can be seen as much longer, mainly because the excellent MagPul PRS stock doesn't shorten like the collapsible DPMS buttstock does.

team member prefers large-caliber bolt-action rifles, and the final member mainly shoots 22 rimfire rifles and pistols. Would trigger time behind either of these 308-caliber AR-style rifles convince them to part with a lot of money to buy one?

Initial Impressions

First, our testers weighed in with their initial takes on each gun's fit and feel, owner's manual, teardown process, controls layout and execution, and field prep. During administrative handling with triple-checked empty guns (and no ammunition whatsoever in the room), all were impressed with the guns' heft and balance. The DPMS LR-308 A4 carbine had the tighter fit, we thought, and really felt familiar. They both had up-to-date features, such as M1913 Picatinny flat-top uppers, ambidextrous mag releases, MagPul furniture, ambidextrous selector switches, and proprietary free-floating quad rails. Both guns came with 1:10-inch twist rates in their barrels, capable of handling a range of bullet weights from 147 to 185 grains. Both guns had a great cosmetic finish and didn't rattle.

The manuals were well written and easy to follow. We consulted them in the next phase of this evaluation, which focused on the major systems and internal parts, including disassembly and cleaning, which makes our guns ready for range testing.

DPMS LR-308-AP4 Details

The DPMS LR-308-AP4 16-inch carbine was equipped with an upgraded Panther flash hider, whose tips were distinct and sharp for puncturing glass and other light barriers. The barrel had the distinct M4 barrel contour, topped with an older A1-style front sight post/gas valve, which is pinned to the barrel. It appeared to be correctly installed and was secure. The DPMS came with a factory-installed free-float quad rail, which was also well attached, and our team noted that everything was tight and lined up correctly with the

PATRIOT ORDNANCE FACTORY P308-20 GEN3
7.62X51MM NATO/308 WIN., $2599
GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

This is a lot of spend for only marginally better accuracy than what the DPMS delivered. Also, it's heavier and longer than the DPMS, limiting its use in close quarters or in a vehicle. We do recognize the quality of the build, however.





Above: Here is the heart of the POF action. Just below the handguard are the handful of components that make up much of the piston gas system. Below: The top barrel is the POF, fluted and capped with a 3-port brake.



Below Right: The POF had a massive handguard that supplied tons of attachment points. The monolithic top rail was able to accept any sights we wanted to place on it. It seems like a picayune concern when considering the total package, but not having any sights for this $2600 rifle means it can't shoot right out of the box. A POF-USA FTA-2005 snag-free front sight lists separately for $64. A Diamondhead "Micro-D" flip-up Combat Sight Set available from POF lists for $238 — a big price add to this already expensive rifle.

Action Type	Semi-Automatic, Rotating Bolt; 3-Pos. Regulated Gas-Piston System
Overall Length (Min/Max)	41 to 42.0 in.
Overall Height	8.4 in. (no sights)
Weight Unloaded	10.8 lbs.
Weight Loaded	12.1 lbs.
Upper Receiver	2-piece A3 flattop, Billet Machined; Chromed Gas Piston, Single-Piece Gas Block, NP3-Coated Bolt Carrier Assembly
Lower Receiver	P308, GEN III; Billet Machined 7075-T6 Aircraft Aluminum Alloy; Integrated Oversized Trigger Guard; MagPul MOE Grip
Barrel	20-in., 4150 Mil-B-11595 Chrome-Moly-Vanadium Alloy; Heavy Contour, Hand-Lapped, Button Rifled, Fluted; 1:10 Twist
Muzzle Device	POF Triple-Port #00309
Buttstock	MagPul PRS
Length of Pull	14.25 to 15.25 in.
Handguard	POF Free-Float M.R.R. Aluminum Handguard
Magazine	(1) 20-round MagPul PMAG
Sights	None Supplied; Monolithic Top Rail
Sight Radius	Up to ~18 in.
Trigger	4.5 lbs., Drop-In Single-Stage, Non-Adjustable
Safety	Ambi 2-Pos. Lever
Cartridge Case Deflector	Yes
Dust Cover	Yes
Warranty	3-Year Limited
Telephone	(623) 561-9572
Website	POF-USA.com
Made In/By	Arizona/POF
State Availability	Not Listed



upper receiver. Atop the M1913 rail sat a detachable A3-style carry handle with A2-style rear sight. This item appeared well made and held out the promise of good shooting accuracy. We found the A3 carry handle/A2 rear sight assembly clamped directly to the upper receiver's flat-top M1913 Picatinny rail. Removal was easy, requiring two knobs be loosened. The assembly lifted right off the rail.

The buttstock again was familiar; DPMS uses a standard AR-15 6-position carbine stock. It functioned properly and had a considerable rage of adjustment. However, if this were our gun, the team agreed that upgrading the stock would be a vast improvement over the original.

The DPMS test gun came equipped with an upgraded Ergo pistol grip and an upgraded ambidextrous selector switch. In our view, the grip was a definite improvement over the stock A2 pistol grip, in part because the Ergo grip also came with a compartment, which had its own cover/plug. The upgraded ambidextrous selector switch uses a hex-style screw to attach the secondary switch. On arrival, this was loose and had to be tightened. This option produced mixed opinions among the testers. The AR shooter was opposed to redundant controls, while the other two testers liked all the bells and whistles.

During disassembly, we found the rear takedown pin to be very tight; none of the three testers were able to budge the rear takedown pin by hand. As suggested in the manual, we used a punch and small hammer to manipulate the rear takedown pin. A closer examination of the rear takedown pin revealed that the difficulty was caused by the head of the takedown pin being lodged tightly against a profile milling that intersects with the pin's seating area. If left alone, a small hammer would be required to seat the pin and a punch would be required for removal, so field-stripping the gun would not be easy. The team chose to resolve the issue rather than send the gun back to DPMS for warranty adjustments. The

DPMS LR-308 AP4 7.62X51MM NATO/308 WIN., $1399

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

For the money, there's a lot here. Our gun came with an optional quad rail which adds a little to the price. We think this would make a great hog gun — maneuverable enough to get in and out of pickups or Jeeps, with lots of punch.







Top, arrow: We found the rear takedown pin to be very tight. A closer examination of the rear takedown pin revealed that the difficulty was caused by the head of the takedown pin being lodged tightly against a profile milling, a minor PITA we chose to fix. Bottom: We used a Dremel tool to grind off the top edge of the takedown pin, allowing the pin to fully seat.



Above: We were happy to see tight joints on the DPMS.

Action Type	Semi-Automatic, Direct Impingement Gas System
Overall Length (Min/Max)	34.5 to 38.0 in.
Overall Height	9.0 in. (w/Carry Handle)
Weight Unloaded	10.25 lbs.
Weight Loaded	11.5 lbs.
Upper Receiver	Extruded Aluminum
Lower Receiver	Milled Billet Aluminum, w/Ergo Grip
Barrel	16-inch Chrome-Moly Steel 1:10 RH Twist, Six Grooves
Muzzle Device	Panther Flash Hider
Buttstock	6-Position Collapsible Synthetic
Length of Pull	11.1 to 14.9 in.
Handguard	Quadrail w/3 Polymer Covers
Magazine	(2) 19-Round, Detachable Steel Box
Rear Sight	Detachable A2-Style Carry Handle
Front Sight	Standard A2 Pinned
Sight Radius	16.4 in.
Trigger	Single Stage, 6.25 lbs.
Safety	Ambi 2-Pos. Lever
Cartridge Case Deflector	Yes
Dust Cover	Yes
Accessories	Cleaning Kit, Nylon Web Sling, Owner's Manual
Warranty	3-Year Limited
Telephone	(800) 578-3767
Website	DPMSinc.com
Made In/By	Alabama/DPMS Firearms
State Availability	Not Listed

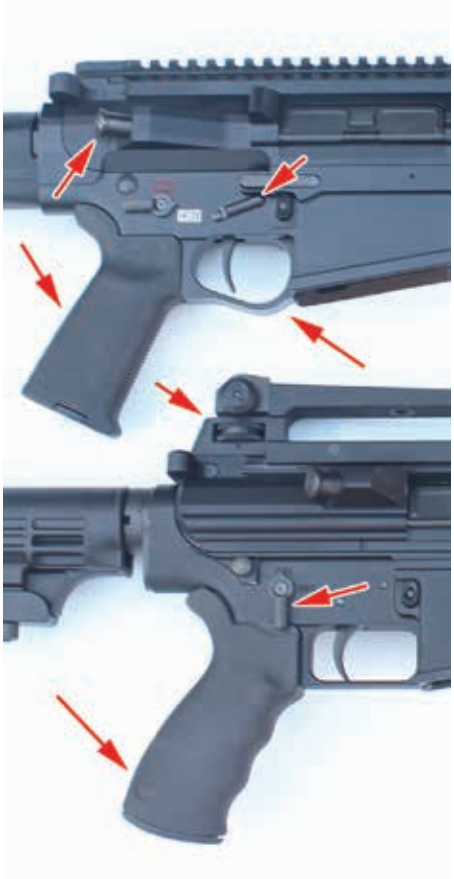


Above: DPMS made a wise decision to equip the rifle with iron sights inside the handle.

receiver was secured in a vise with the takedown pin fully extended. A Dremel tool equipped with a 1.5-inch cutting/grinding wheel was used to carefully grind the top edge of the takedown pin, grinding in a relief that allowed the pin to fully seat unobstructed. The white metal was twice treated with Brownells Dicropan Cold Blue, then lubricated. The modification was successful; the rear take-down pin worked as predicted and looked good.

The front takedown pin was easily manipulated by hand, allowing the upper and lower receiver to be separated. Once inside, we found the bolt carrier group and charging handle were simple to remove, with disassembly and breakdown identical to a 5.56-chambered AR-15. The barreled upper receiver was cleaned and lubricated using patches, chamber brush, and AR-15 cleaning brush. The critical areas seemed easier to clean than on an AR-15 due to the enlarged dimensions of the upper receiver and barrel extension. DPMS designed its milled billet lower receiver from the ground up, and although the receiver is 30% larger than a standard AR-15, the rear fire-control pocket was milled to dimensions that would utilize existing AR-15 lower parts. Aside from the oversized mag well, the lower functioned and looked identical to an AR-15 lower assembly.

Using a gauge on the empty rifle, we saw the trigger had a consistent 6.4-pound trigger pull and felt like a typical single-stage combat trigger.



Here are a few things to note about the two rifles. Top, the POF has an enlarged trigger guard milled into the lower, anti-walk pins, and a MagPul MOE grip. Both have forward-assist buttons. Bottom, the DPMS has an ambi safety (as does the POF), an Ergo grip, and the iron sight in the detachable handle.

The selector switch spring felt light, but the switch moved unobstructed and did lock into place crisply. The mag release was a single control, as was the larger bolt-release control.

Overall, the DPMS lower receiver and parts scored well by all three testers, however, since modifications with a grinder were performed, we deducted some points.

Patriot Ordnance Factory Gen3 P308-20 BLK Details

The POF USA Gen3 P308-20 was 42 inches long with a 20-inch fluted barrel tipped with a custom triple-port muzzle brake. On top was a sleek monolithic rail stretching 14 inches in length. A MagPul PRS adjustable buttstock met the shooter's shoulder. The team agreed the rifle felt strong and hefty, and they were pleased with the overall feel. It was well balanced,

RANGE DATA

Hornady Match 308 Win. 168-gr. BTHP	Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen3	DPMS LR-308 AP4
Average Velocity	2585 fps	2570 fps
Muzzle Energy	2492 ft.-lbs.	2463 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.0 in.	1.3 in.
Lake City M118 7.62 NATO 173-gr. FMJ	**Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen3**	**DPMS LR-308 AP4**
Average Velocity	2535 fps	2520 fps
Muzzle Energy	2468 ft.-lbs.	2439 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.3 in.	1.5 in.
HP Austrian HP-74 7.62 NATO 146-gr. FMJ	**Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen3**	**DPMS LR-308 AP4**
Average Velocity	2650 fps	2625 fps
Muzzle Energy	2276 ft.-lbs.	2233 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.8 in.	2.0 in.

To collect 100-yard accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups off sandbags at American Shooting Centers in Houston and Brazos River Sportsmens Club in Fulshear, Texas. Weather conditions were 90 degrees with light winds on both days. The same Sightmark SM13017 4-16x44 Tactical Scope was used on both rifles. We recorded velocities using a MagnetoSpeed V3 Ballistic Chronograph at Full Armor Firearms indoor range in Houston. The MagnetoSpeed V3 Ballistic Chronograph was compact, lightweight, and attaches quickly to a gun muzzle. We recommend it. The Sightmark scope, made in China, looks great, and comes in fancy packaging. It worked just long enough to complete these tests. Then, the side parallax adjustment knob fell off when the assembly pin that held the knob in place sheared off. We won't buy another one.



The more rigid MagPul PRS stock, top, is adjustable for LOP to the tune of about an inch using the dial knob at left, whereas the six-position DPMS collapsible stock offers almost 4 inches of length-of-pull adjustment. The PRS also allows cheekpiece-height adjustment as well (bottom arrow), which the DPMS stock doesn't.

the metal finishes and coatings were uniform and looked very nice. The mill work on the billet upper and lower receiver was well done.

The receivers fit tightly together and didn't rattle. However, there was an obvious gap at the rear mating of the receivers. The rear and front takedown pins fit and functioned properly with no grinding needed. The upper receiver was equipped with forward assist. The charging handle and bolt-carrier group slid out of the receiver smoothly. The charging handle was machined billet and anodized.

The bolt carrier group was impressive, a custom design by POF-USA that requires little to no lubrication because of a nickel-Teflon plating. It was integrally keyed and uses a custom-designed roller-cam pin that was also NP3 coated. The bolt was chrome plated and heat-treated to mil-spec standards. Disassembly and lubrication were simple to perform, and POF-USA recommends additional lubrication of these parts during break-in.

The three-position short-stroke-piston gas system is also a POF-USA proprietary design and was extremely easy to disassemble clean and lubricate. POF designed this gas system to cycle by the "push" of the rebounding bolt-carrier group during the cycling of the gun. That eliminated the use of springs usually associated with push-rod systems, which resulted in a five-piece proprietary gas system (a pinned single-piece gas block, the gas plug, the gas piston, the chrome-plated operating rod, and the custom milled bolt-carrier group). A three-position gas valve moved easily and crisply and disassembled easily. The gas piston was easily slid out, followed by the operating rod. Excluding the bolt-carrier group, there were only three removable pieces that would need to be maintained, and we found that all were easy to clean and lubricate. However, these three parts operate in alignment via a channel or tunnel, and because of exact tolerances, this channel and the bore must also be clean and lubricated. Fortunately, this area is not prone to dirt, but it should be maintained. Doing so was straightforward.

Re-assembly was done in record time: Insert the push rod through the top of gas block, ensure it is fully seated, slide the gas piston in through the open top of the gas block, and then slide the gas plug into place through the open end of the gas block. It is held in place by spring-loaded detents built into the gas plug.

The lower receiver was billet machined aluminum with an integrated oversized trigger guard. The ambidextrous bolt release felt precise and secure, with no loose parts. The MagPul MOE pistol grip was secure and offered a good grip and bonus storage compartment. A POF–USA drop-in nonadjustable 4.5-pound single-stage competition trigger system felt smooth and consistent. Last, the lower receiver comes with KNS Anti-walk pins, and the MagPul PRS buttstock could be adjusted for length of pull and cheekpiece height.

The only area that drew some concern was the cost of equipping the already pricey rifle with a sighting system, since it didn't come with anything, thus, couldn't be used out of the box.

Handling & Controls

The DPMS LR-308 AP4 Carbine was lighter at 10.25 pounds with an



Does your "team" include smaller individuals who might enjoy shooting an AR-configured 308 Win.? If so, the DPMS is the hands-down choice for its slightly lighter weight and better adjustability — not to mention the price difference.



Above: In our tests, the POF, top, with its free-float handguard, outshot the DPMS LR-308 carbine about a quarter-inch overall. Unfortunately, the POF didn't always cycle Lake City M118s. The POF shot 1-inch groups with Hornady match ammo, below.



empty magazine and 11.25 pounds with a full load of ammo. It was easy to set up and shoot from the bench. The factory quad rail came with smooth rail covers, allowing the AP4 to settle into the sandbags nicely. Length of pull was easily adjusted with the mil-spec 6-position stock. The scope mounted on top of the receiver easily once we removed the factory-installed A3 carry handle. The direct-impingement gas system cycled the action without any malfunctions. The bolt hold open and bolt release worked every time. The trigger was predictable and broke well for a mil-spec single-stage unit.

The POF P308-20 weighed in at 10.8 pounds with an empty magazine. Mounting the 13-inch-long Sightmark scope was simple and didn't require removing any other parts since the gun did not come with back-up iron sights (BUIS) or a carry handle. The 14-inch free-floating monolithic top rail system made mounting optics easy and more adjustable to desired eye relief. The POF-USA nonadjustable competition trigger was smooth, light, and consistent. The bolt hold open and mag-release functions operated without issue, and no external parts became loose or required alteration.

Close Quarters Handling

In a mock CQB trial, we tested maneuvering each unloaded rifle in standard 40-inch hallways throughout a furnished house. With the stock collapsed, the DPMS LR-308 AP4 Carbine measured 34.5 inches in overall length — short enough to make maneuvering in hallways possible. With a loaded mag, a red dot, a forward grip, and a three-point sling, holding the DPMS at the ready position for extended periods was challenging. The A2 rear sight and front post were effective in lighted conditions, but we had trouble using them in low lighting. To use it in CQB, we'd swap the A2 carry handle sights for a dot or some other low-light solution. We also entered and exited a vehicle with the reasonably handy rifle. In contrast, the POF P308-20 was too heavy and too long for CQB work, in our estimation.

At the Range

With the guns field-prepped, measured, and initially assessed, we next began to shoot them for accuracy and to assess their function and reliability. Each gun was fired with 100 rounds of three types of ammo. Tests were conducted on six separate days at three different gun ranges, using the same shooter to ensure consistency. We fired three different bullet weights from three different manufacturers. The test rounds were Hornady's 168-grain 308 Winchester Boat-Tail Hollow Point (BTHP) Match round; a 173-grain M118 Match round made at the Lake City plant; and a bulk-packaged Austrian 7.62x51mm NATO round, with 146-grain HP-74 nomenclature. We used the same scope on both guns, transferring a Sightmark SM13017 4-16x44 Tactical Scope in a set of 30mm rings between the rifles. We also used a new device to capture velocity data, the MagnetoSpeed V3 Ballistic Chronograph.

The POF P308 rifle achieved the best groups across all three ammo types. The POF shot a 1.0-inch group average with the Hornady Match 168-grain boattails, followed by 1.3-inch groups from the Lake City M118 173-grain load. The largest groups were recorded by the Austrian HP-74 NATO at 1.8 inches. Although the POF P-308 did shoot the tightest groups by about a quarter-inch per load, the POF P308 periodically had trouble cycling the Lake City M118. There were no failures encountered with the other two types of ammo. The DPMS completed the tests without any function failures; however, during range testing, the ambidextrous selector switch became loose and fell off the gun. Off the bench, two Gun Tests testers new to the AR platform felt comfortable with all operational aspects of the DPMS LR-308 AP4 carbine.

Our Team Said

The team agreed that both guns were well made; the quality was on par for commercial production guns.

The POF P308-20 lost points for its failures to feed with one of the test ammos and was not ready to shoot (accurately) out of the box because it didn't come with any sights. And for twice the price of the DPMS LR-308, we expected much better accuracy than we achieved. On the plus side, the POF P308 has superior internal execution with the company's advanced coatings, and we liked its advanced rail system and its modern profile.

The DPMS LR-308 AP4 would be Our Pick in spite of the isolated issues surrounding our test gun's rear takedown pin and loose selector switch. It doesn't get a top grade because of these niggling issues, but we had no malfunctions with the gun whatsoever. The AP4 would make a great ranch rifle, scoring hog kills easily, right out of the box. The DPMS LR-308 AP4 Carbine is definitely a heavy hitter that's highly configurable, compact, and lots of fun to shoot. In the current market, they can be bought for around $1000 counter price, and in our opinion, are worth the money.

Written and photographed by Rafael Urista, using evaluations from Gun Tests team testers. **GT**

VALUE GUIDE: MOST RECENT 7.62 NATO/308 WIN. RIFLE RATINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304 308 Win./7.62 NATO, $850	June 2015	**Grade A-:** The PTR 91 G.I. is a great rifle. Once broken in, the rifle gave excellent reliability and accuracy.
Century Arms C91 Sporter 308 Win/7.62 NATO, $509	June 2015	**Grade B:** The Century rifle is worth the money. We traced a few short cycles to problematic magazines.
Ruger SR-762 Rifle 5601 7.62x51 NATO/308 Win. $2195	Sept 2014	**Grade A:** The top end is a fine piece of equipment. The lower could use a better trigger.
Springfield Armory Socom 16 AA9625 7.62 NATO, $1905	Sept 2014	**Grade B+:** The Socom 16 is the deluxe model for chores that require stopping power.
Armalite AR-10(T) 10TBNF 7.62 NATO, $1914	May 2014	**Grade A:** Plain looking, the ArmaLite had a free-floating heavy stainless barrel and a decent trigger.
Springfield Armory Loaded M1A MA9826 7.62 NATO, $1893	May 2014	**Grade B+:** Polymer stock had the slim shape and feel of original mil-spec stocks. Fabulous accuracy.
Rock River Arms LAR-8 A4 308A1239X 7.62 NATO, $1335	March 2014	**Grade A:** The RRA Mid-Length A4 was excellent, with a fine trigger and MOA accuracy with match-grade ammo.
SIG Sauer 716 Patrol ODG R716-16B-P-ODG 7.62 NATO, $2186	March 2014	**Grade A-:** A touch less accurate than the RRA with Federal ammo, but a touch better with Hornady match.
Weatherby Vanguard Bolt Action 308 Win., $300	Dec 2013	**Grade A-:** This used Vanguard was a fabulous bargain, as are other Vanguards, depending on their condition.
Ruger American Rifle No. 6903 308 Winchester, $449	Dec 2013	**Grade B:** We'd pick the American only if we had to cut weight to the minimum.
Savage 11/111 Lightweight Hunter 19209 308 Win., $899	Jan 2013	**Grade A:** The Savage was the epitome of a light hunting rifle. We've seen very few 308 rifles this light.
Winchester M70 F'weight Comp. SA 535126220 308 Win., $880	Jan 2013	**Grade A:** This slim, trim Model 70 had excellent wood, great finish, and an excellent trigger.
Mossberg 4X4 No. 27656 308 Win., $471	Jan 2013	**Grade C:** The 4X4 was a solid product with a comfortable stock and an excellent trigger.
Savage Model 10 FCM Scout 18138 308 Win., $814	Sept 2011	**Grade B:** The forend and barrel could have been shorter, and mag capacity could have been larger.
Steyr Jeff Cooper Scout 308 Winchester, $2975	May 2011	**Grade A:** The Jeff Cooper Steyr Scout is gray and has the Cooper logo on the right side of the butt.
Ruger Gunsite Scout 308 Winchester, $995	May 2011	**Grade B-:** A useful rifle for those who cannot come up to the price of the real thing.
Fulton Armory M14 308 Win., $2755	Dec 2010	**Grade A:** The rifle shot as well as it looked. It had excellent fitting, too.

Log on to **Gun-Tests.com** to read complete reviews of these products in the designated months. Highly-ranked products from older reviews are often available used at substantial discounts.

Uberti's 1860 Henry Rifle Trumps Henry's 'Original' Lever-Action

Yes, that can be confusing, but we did like the 1860 Henry by the Italian maker better than we did the namesake brand's gun.



Above: Blued steel, shiny brass, and fine walnut make a great combination in the fall, on the leaves, all ready to go. This 1860 Henry is made by Uberti, and is one of the best rifles the Idaho test team has handled.

In our October 2015 issue, we took a hard look at the Henry Repeating Arms' "Original Rifle" in a test that included a Winchester 1892, both rifles in 44-40 WCF. The Winchester won a clear victory in that head-to-head test of lever actions, but we were intrigued by the Henry nonetheless. The Henry rifle worked well enough but had a nasty job of overbuffing, we thought, that gave the brass action a mirror polish at the expense of destroying the edges of the octagonal flats of the barrel. The overbuffing also left a depression, sometimes called a "hog wallow," where the barrel met the 5-inch sleeve at the muzzle. Partly because of that problem and partly because of the high price, $2300, we gave the rifle a **Grade: C** rating. That's not enough recommendation for us to invest in the Henry "Original," so we began looking for a similarly styled levergun and found the Uberti version of 1860 Henry for a lot less money.

Because the availability of 44-40 ammunition choices is fairly tight (MidwayUSA.com lists 10 choices, with only lead bullets, in weights from 200 to 225 grains), we figured if we found an 1860 we liked, we'd prefer to have a wider range of loads for it, so we acquired one chambered in 45 Colt (aka Long Colt), for which MidwayUSA.com lists 56 results, in bullet weights from 145 grains to 360 grains in lead, copper, even shotshells. Looking at these 1860s point by point, we realized we were looking for a rifle that would trump Henry's Henry — and it would be no easy task for the Uberti to take down the namesake 1860. Here's what we found.





Top: The lever of the Uberti was case hardened. We don't know if that's how they used to be, but we liked it. It also worked slick as glass. The little locking stud behind the lever had positive click stops every 90 degrees. Bottom: The Uberti model designation was right behind the hammer on the top tang.

Uberti 1860 Henry Rifle 342880 45 Colt, $1429

Uberti makes five versions of this rifle. The Trapper 342910 in 45 Colt has an 18.5-inch barrel, a brass frame and buttplate, and a case-hardened lever. The Rifle models have similar cosmetics to the Trapper but have 24.5-inch barrels, one chambered in 44-40 (342390) and our test gun in 45 Colt. Two more Rifle models come in the same chamberings (342370 in 44-40 and 342360 in 45 Colt) and have the same barrel lengths as the brass ones, but they display case-hardened frames and levers and blued buttplates and list for $30 more.

Our first glance at the Uberti test model was extremely satisfying. We found the barrel flats to be properly done. The edges between them were sharp enough and, sighting along the flats, we found them to be dead level. The bluing was authentic looking. It was not rust bluing, but looked close enough to it to satisfy us. Our impression was that this is how the 1860 Henry is supposed to look. While the action was not quite so glossy as the Henry version, it still reflected much like a mirror and was, like the barrel flats, dead flat. The walnut stock had some lovely tiger-striping in it that our photos might not pick up, and inletting was excellent. While the stock finish was mighty hard, it had none of the milkiness that Henry's rifle had.

The little button behind the loading lever had distinct stops every 90 degrees, a feature was missing from the previously tested version. The sights were identical to

those found on the Henry Henry, the rear having all the same little cuts, holes, notch contours, elevation slide and markings as on the other rifle. The front sight was also identical in contour to the other rifle, and had a flat-topped blade insert of somewhat shiny metal. The hammer was blued, but the loading lever was case hardened. We believe the original Henry rifles (from the 19th century) had blued parts, but there were some finish variations in the 1866 and 1873 rifles that followed it, so we believe it's possible some of the original Henrys had case-hardened parts. If that's not true and the dull case coloring offends you, rub the parts with cold blue and call it good. We don't think that's necessary, however — it looked mighty nice.

The rifle had the caliber marked just behind the rear sight on top of the barrel as "45 COLT." The left side of the barrel had the importer's name and Uberti's name tastefully small. Behind that were two Italian proof marks. On the top of the barrel, an inch in front of the rear sight, was "PATENT. OCT. 16. 1860." The top tang of the action held the designation "MOD. 1860 HENRY" and the bottom tang held "A. UBERTI – ITALY" and the serial number. The action proof marks were under the action just behind the loading platform. There were no other markings on the rifle.

We found all the controls to be smooth, including the "loading" gate at the front of the rifle. We did note the edges of just about everything — the front gate system, the edges of the magazine cut along the bottom of the rifle, etc. — were all sharp enough to cut the hands. A little wear from use will fix that, or these could be deburred carefully by the owner. We can't knock the rifle for that, however, because it all looked clean and crisp with those sharp edges. Loading the rifle was easy, by which we mean the follower easily raised the front lock to let the gate swing open without any of the fiddling the Henry's version needed. The magazine held 13 rounds, despite the manual saying it was 10. The website has it right at 13.

Unlike the other rifle, this one came with a comprehensive yet brief manual that told how to operate it all. The manual had the mumbo-jumbo we mentioned in our earlier report about where the lever ought to be during the loading process, and we again state that it doesn't matter where you put the lever when you load the rifle. In fact, if you leave the lever partly open, it's possible to shove the carrier down so it can catch the first round loaded. But when you close the lever to the firing position, that round is not brought up into

UBERTI MODEL 1860 HENRY 342880 45 LC, $1429

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

We were pleased with all aspects of this Italian-made rifle. It was done entirely right, we thought. It shot well, everything worked, and it looked like it ought to look. Available in 44-40 or 45 LC, ours was the latter.

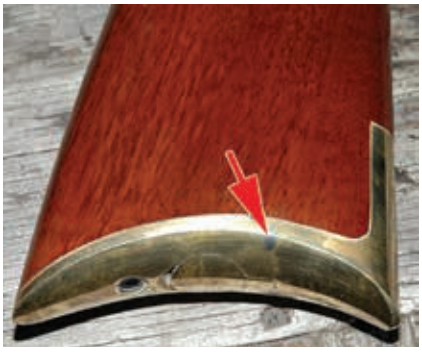


Overall Length	43.9 in.	Action Type	Lever
Barrel Length	24.3 in.	Barrel Finish	Blued
Sight Radius	21.6 in.	Magazine Type	Tubular, Integral
Overall Height	8 in.	Stock	Walnut
LOP	13.3 in.	Trigger Pull Weight	6.2 lbs.
Weight Unloaded	9.2 lbs.	Warranty	5-Year Limited
Weight Loaded	9.9 lbs.	Telephone	(301) 283-6981
Magazine Capacity	13	Website	Uberti.com
Action Finish	Brass	Made In	Italy

We found many of the cuts and angles on the fine Uberti to be identical to those on the U.S.-made Henry version.



The arrow points to a white-metal pin, which is the hinge for the trap door. The other rifle had a neater job with a hidden pin, but this trap door was far easier to use, we thought.



Uberti makes a fine rifle, we thought. We'd be happy to own this one just as an example of how old guns ought to be made.



battery. In short, put the lever anywhere you want it during the loading process, and it will still take a full cycle of the lever to get the first round into the chamber. We again state it's a good idea to have the rifle entirely empty when you load the rifle to avoid the possibility of a major blunder that could cost you a hand, or worse. That's why we don't call the capacity 13+1, as it's given on the website.

We tested mainly with PMC cowboy-type ammo, which is a mild load with a hard lead bullet. We also tried, but did not record, Remington factory ammo and some handloads. Our handloads were a touch hotter than the PMC, and maybe shot a touch better. The Remington ammo was balky on entering the chamber. Remington's bullet had a slight shoulder, which was part of the problem. Like the other rifle, the back edge of the Uberti's chamber had sharp corners, though no burrs, and a bit of time with a scraper there should answer most loading questions. However, a shoulder on the bullet will never help matters. The rifle did not seem to require a break-in period to deburr it, as had the other one.

We cleaned the Uberti and went right to work at the range, and the rifle did all it could to please us. Be advised there are some hot 45 LC loads, such as from Buffalo Bore, that probably ought not to be used in this rifle, certainly not as a steady diet. To our knowledge that problem does not exist with the 44-40 version, so if you opt for this caliber, use some sense in choosing your ammunition. We suspect it'd be a delight with black powder.

Groups with the PMC averaged 2.3 inches at 50 yards off the bench. The front sight was slightly shiny, and we chose to blacken it to get a better sight picture in our late-fall light. We accomplished that with a Sharpie, and that helped our groups. To our joy, the rifle had a decent trigger pull, 6.2 pounds and free of creep. That was another problem with the $900-more-costly Henry version. It had an extremely heavy trigger pull.

There were no failures to feed, fire, or eject. All the controls worked smoothly, and our range session was most pleasant. Recoil was not an issue. Accuracy was plenty good enough, we thought. We thought this would be an excellent gun for Cowboy Action matches if you favor the 45 LC, as some of us do. It's not as fast to reload as, say, a Winchester 1873, but it does hold lots of ammo. Of course, original Henry rifles were never chambered for anything but the 44 Henry Rimfire, so whether you choose 44-40 or 45 LC for your modern 1860 Henry is of no consequence. If this were a copy of an 1873 Winchester, you'd have to choose 44-40 (or 38-40) for authenticity, but if you're shooting the 1860 Henry in those matches, it doesn't matter which "incorrect" caliber you choose. Be sure to match the rifle's caliber to that of your handguns as you ride off into the sunset to your next shooting match, just as they did in the Old West.

Our Team Said: We thought the Uberti 1860 Henry was as good a rifle as any we've tested, modern or otherwise. We were extremely gratified to see a company making such a high-grade version of the old Henry, never mind where in the world it's made. We'd buy this one instantly if we wanted a brass gun for fun.

Written and photographed by Ray Ordorica, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

RANGE DATA

PMC 250-gr. Cast Lead FP	Uberti Model 1860 Henry
Average Velocity	915 fps
Muzzle Energy	464 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	2.3 in.

Velocity was recorded using an Oehler 35P chronograph with proof channel. Three-shot groups were fired at 50 yards from a bench rest.



On the left is a 44-40 round, an option for this rifle. It's easy to grab the wrong cartridge in the heat of a Cowboy Action course of fire, so it makes sense to choose a handgun and rifle that take the same round. Of the three on the right, the first one was our PMC 250-grain flat point test round. Next is the Remington with its slight shoulder that gave feeding glitches. On the far right is a handload, which came out about 130 fps faster than the PMC and shot marginally better.





Left: The front blade was on the shiny side, so we blackened the rear end to give a better sight picture. Filing or replacing the front blade takes care of elevation, but it was right on the money at 50 yards, i.e., just a touch high. Right: The ladder-type rear sight was true to originals. This is identical to the sight on the U.S.-made Henry. Windage is by drifting. We got just over 2-inch groups with them.

VALUE GUIDE: LEVER-ACTION RATINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Winchester 1892 LS Takedown 534154140 44-40 WCF, $1900	Oct 2015	**Grade A:** We were impressed with Miroku's rendering of the Winchester. If you can find one, buy it.
Winchester 1886 Limited Series 45-70 Gov't, $1340	Sept 2014	**Grade A:** The quality of work and finish were superlative. This was a very accurate rifle, and one we'd love to own.
Henry Repeating Arms Lever Action H010 45-70 Gov't, $850	Sept 2014	**Grade A:** The clean lines of the Henry 45-70 gave it a business-like look that we liked.
Grizzly Custom Marlin 336RC Brush Hawg 30-30 Win., $1910	Jan 2014	**Grade A:** A pawnshop carbine was changed from a beater gun to a firearm worthy of being passed down.
Winchester M1895 30-40 Krag Carbine, $1000-$1500 (used)	May 2013	**Grade A:** Performance of this classic was superb. Any lever-action fan should jump at the chance to own one.
Henry Frontier Model H001TV Octagon-Barrel 17 HMR, $550	Sept 2009	**Grade A:** It did everything we could ask of a lever-action chambered for 17 HMR.
Marlin 308 MX 308 Win., $590	Sept 2007	**Grade A:** Shoots the 308 MX cartridge, which we found to be excellent, except for its range of loadings.
Henry Big Boy No. H006M 357 Mag./38 Sp., $900	Oct 2012	**Grade A-:** Best Buy. Had the best sights in the test and it was the most accurate with all three ammunition types.
Marlin Model 1895GS 45-70 Gov't, $837	Sept 2014	**Grade B+:** Short and light, no fuss nor muss, just a handy stainless big-bore rifle that won't rust easily.
Mossberg Model 464 ZMB 30-30 Win., $535	May 2013	**Grade B+:** This space-age rifle performed well on the range and was both light and quick to put on the target.
Sears, Roebuck Ted Williams Model 100 30-30 Win, $199-$350	March 2013	**Grade B+:** If you want a 30-30 just like granddad's, this was the rifle to buy.
Cimarron Evil Roy Brush Popper ER2022SS 357 Mag/38 Sp, $1875	Oct 2012	**Grade B+:** A fine rifle, and choosing between it and the Henry Big Boy is a toss-up for some shooters.
Henry Mare's Leg H006MML 38 Sp/357 Mag, $975	Nov 2015	**Grade B:** The Henry Mare's Leg was well made, with plenty of safeties built in, and was accurate.
Winchester M94 Short Rifle 534174114 30-30 Win., $1230	Sept 2011	**Grade B-:** The Short Rifle was nicely built. The safety features were smart additions.
Rossi Ranch Hand RH92-51121 38 Sp/357 Mag, $597	Nov 2015	**Grade C:** We had issues loading it at first and it did not shoot to point of aim.
Henry Original Rifle Model H011 44-40 WCF, $2300	Oct 2015	**Grade C:** The Henry weighed 10 pounds fully loaded and measured almost 44 inches in length.
Winchester M1873 Short Rifle 534200137 357 Mag/38 Sp, $1300	June 2014	**Grade C:** We did not care for the sharp curvature of the butt plate and had issues with it slipping off our shoulder.

Log on to **Gun-Tests.com** to read complete reviews of these products in the designated months. Highly-ranked products from older reviews are often available used at substantial discounts.

Sturm, Ruger Rolls Out Significant New Pistols, Revolvers, and Rifles

Also, Magnum Research has released new Desert Eagle finishes, and Winchester issues a safety recall for some of its XPR rifles.

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. has announced a new line of full-size duty pistols, new chamberings for its GP100 revolvers, new barrels for its 10/22 Takedowns, and new colors for its Lite rimfire pistols. Also, the company has added a Takedown rifle to its SR-556 line.

The **Ruger American Pistol** will be available in 9mm Luger and .45 Auto. The two 9mms are Model Nos. 8605 (17+1) and 8607 (10+1) and the 45 is Model No. 8615, and all will list for $579 MSRP.

The Ruger American Pistol is built on a one-piece precision-machined stainless-steel chassis with integral frame rails and fire control housing. It has a black nitrided finish, Novak LoMount Carry three-dot sights, a stainless steel slide with non-reflective black-nitride finish, and a one-piece glass-filled nylon grip frame. The front accepts accessories on a mil-standard 1913 rail.

"The Ruger American Pistol is the most advanced semi-auto pistol we have ever produced," noted Ruger CEO Mike Fifer.

The 9mm weighs in at 30 ounces with a 4.2-inch barrel and the .45 weighs in at 31.5 ounces with a 4.5-inch barrel. Both ship in a hard case with replaceable grip modules and two, nickel-Teflon plated steel magazines. Capacities are 17 rounds for 9mm and 10 rounds for .45 Auto. 10-round magazines are also available for the 9mm for those states which restrict round counts.

CEO Fifer said that Ruger polled law enforcement and military trainers throughout the country to determine the form, function, and features of this firearm. The new pistol combines a recoil-reducing barrel cam to spread recoil over time, a low-mass slide, low center of gravity and a low bore axis to provide better balance, less felt recoil and less muzzle flip.





Above: The Ruger American Pistol also features a pre-tensioned striker system, which allows for a short takeup trigger with positive reset, and a modular wrap-around grip system that adjusts palm swell and trigger reach to fit a wide range of hand sizes.

The **Ruger 22/45 Lite** (below) is now available with an OD-green anodized receiver with a new side-vent pattern. Made of an aerospace-grade aluminum upper and a polymer lower, the 22/45 Lite features a 4.4-inch-long barrel with a ½-28 threaded muzzle covered by a factory-installed thread protector. No. 3912 has an MSRP of $549, joining the 3908 Blue Anodized version, which we positively reviewed **(Grade: A)** in the May 2015 issue. Other than the color, the specs are the same for the new 3912 version.



Other new rimfire products include a **Ruger GP100** and a **10/22 Takedown** target-barrel model. MSRP for the GP100 22 LR revolver 1757 is $829. MSRP for the Ruger 10/22 Takedown w/Target Barrel 21133 is $629.

"This 22 LR revolver has the same light trigger pull as our centerfire GP100 revolvers," said Chris Killoy, Ruger President and COO.

The GP100 in 22 LR features a windage-and-elevation-adjustable rear sight with a white outline, a light-gathering fiber-optic front sight, and the original full-size GP100 rubber grips with hardwood inserts. The stainless-steel construction should make this GP100 an easy firearm to maintain.

This newest entry into the 10/22 Takedown line has a target barrel with a 0.920-inch-diameter 16.10-inch cold-hammer-forged barrel. This new target barrel takedown model also incorporates the Ruger Modular Stock System and comes with both low and high comb, standard length of pull modules.

Readily separated into two subassemblies, the 10/22 Takedown offers a convenient transport and storage option. The barrel and forend of the 10/22 Takedown can be separated from the action and





Above: The new Ruger GP100 ten-round revolver has a 5.50-inch half-lug barrel to reduce weight and it uses an improved fire-control system that uses a lighter mainspring than previous Ruger double-action .22 LR revolvers.



Fluted for weight reduction, the barrel on the 10/22 Takedown target-barrel model also includes a ½-28 threaded muzzle and is fitted with a thread cap.

buttstock by pushing a recessed lever, twisting the subassemblies and pulling them apart.

The Ruger 10/22 Takedown with target barrel is shipped with a carrying case with extra pockets and magazine pouches. The 5.5-pound Ruger 10/22 Takedown is 34.50 inches long when assembled; each subassembly is less than 20.25 inches long when disassembled. It otherwise functions like the standard 10/22 action and comes with one 10-round rotary magazine.

Ruger's SR-556 AR is now available in a **Takedown Model, No. 5901,** $2049 suggested retail. The takedown barrel is removed from the upper receiver by moving the slider bar towards the breech, rotating the barrel and pulling it free — no tools are required. To install, just slide the barrel into the upper and twist until it locks. The takedown mechanism provides a repeatable point of impact and employs a chrome-plated, two-stage piston-driven operating, the company says.

"We are excited to bring the portability and ease of storage that we introduced with the 10/22 Takedown to a modern sporting rifle" said Mike Fifer, CEO. "The SR-556 Takedown has all the reliability of the original two-stage piston SR-556 and adds new and innovative features for MSR shooters."

The removable 16.1-inch chrome-lined cold hammer-forged Mil-Spec 41V45 chrome-moly-vanadium steel barrel is chambered in 5.56 NATO. The headspace is set at the factory, so no adjustment is necessary. The barrel assembly includes an elevation and windage adjustable flip-up front sight so that the zero stays with the barrel. The SR-556 Takedown also sports the shorter Ruger flash hider on the ½-28 threaded muzzle.

AR shooters who desire a larger cartridge can find a replaceable barrel kit for the Takedown chambered in 300 AAC Blackout. The cold hammer-forged 300 AAC Blackout barrel is 16.1 inches long, has a 1:7 twist, and is capped by a ⅝-24 threaded muzzle fitted with a Ruger flash hider. This range-ready barrel's headspace is set at the factory and comes complete with a metal flip-up elevation- and windage-adjustable front sight and two 30-round metal magazines marked with "300 AAC BLACKOUT" to ensure easy differentiation.

Other elements of the SR-556 Takedown include a quad-rail handguard. The slider bar for removing the barrel is located on the bottom rail under the gas block and is out of the way of accessories. The upper receiver is complete with dust cover, forward assist, and metal flip-up windage adjustable rear sight. All aluminum parts are





Above: Ruger's SR-556 Takedown Model 5901 has a removable 16.1-inch barrel chambered in 5.56 NATO. No tools are required to remove the barrel from the upper receiver. Broken into a lower, the upper, and the barrel, the components of the Takedown fit in the supplied ballistic nylon case.

hardcoat anodized. The Ruger Elite 452 two-stage trigger is installed in the standard mil-spec pattern lower receiver. Furniture on the 7.6-pound SR-556 Takedown are a Magpul MOE grip and MOE SL stock on a mil-spec buffer tube.

Three 30-round Magpul PMAG magazines and three full-length rail covers ship with the SR-556 Takedown in a ballistic nylon case.

Important Safety Recall Notice For Winchester XPR Rifles

Gun Tests would like to advise our readers that Winchester Repeating Arms has recalled its XPR rifles because manipulation of the safety switch may cause movement in the trigger system that could result in unintended firing. The company



advises its customers not to load or shoot any XPR rifle until it has been returned to the company's service center and received a retrofit.

A company statement said, "Failure to follow this warning may result in a risk of harm, including serious personal injury or death to you and others." Further, the company said, "We have decided to replace certain trigger group parts at no charge. This will require that all XPR rifles are sent to our service facility for a retrofit. We respectfully require all owners to return their rifles for the retrofit."

For more details on how to return your rifle for retrofitting, or if you are unsure if your rifle is included in the recall, or if you have any questions about this recall notice, call or e-mail the company with the contact information below:

Email: XPR@winchesterguns.com

Toll Free: 1-800-727-4312

You can also log on to WinchesterGuns.com to get further information on the recall.

Magnum Research Adds Desert Eagle Models

Magnum Research has introduced another set of Desert Eagle Mark XIX animal prints and two new models of its stainless-steel Desert Eagle, these chambered in 357 Magnum and 44 Magnum.

The new animal-print patterns are Kryptek Typhon and the Zebra, and both are available in either 50 AE or 44 Magnum chamberings. MSRP for both Desert Eagles is $1793.

Regarding the animal-print series, "The Cheetah, Kryptek Highlander, and Snakeskin Desert Eagles sold very rapidly," said Frank Harris, VP of sales and marketing for Magnum Research. "When you take one of the largest, most powerful handguns in the world and marry it to a unique animal print, shooters take notice."

Like the other designs, the Kryptek Typhon and the Zebra patterns are put on with a water-transfer method. Harris said the patterns have been extensively tested for durability and have proven to be very tough. He said cleaning solvents and acetone will not soften or damage the finishes.



Above: The final two animal-print patterns in the Desert Eagle line are Kryptek Typhon (top) and the Zebra (2nd from top), both available in either 50 AE or 44 Magnum chamberings. The new stainless models are chambered in 357 Magnum (DE357SRMB, 2nd from bottom) and 44 Magnum (DE44SRMB, bottom).

The Desert Eagle 50 AE is a gas-operated, semi-automatic pistol with a 7-round capacity in 50 AE and 8-round capacity in 44 Magnum. Both guns are 10.75 inches long and have 6-inch barrels. Slide widths are 1.25 inches, heights are 6.25 inches, and weights with an empty magazine are just under 4.4 pounds in 50 AE and just over 4.4 pounds in 44 Mag.

Common measurements include a trigger reach of 2.75 inches and a sight radius of 8.5 inches with the 6-inch barrel. Both handguns include Weaver-style accessory rails for easy mounting of aftermarket optics and scope rings.

The new Mark XIX Desert Eagle 357 Magnum (DE357SRMB) and 44 Magnum (DE44SRMB) have all-stainless-steel frames, slides, barrels, and rails accented with attractive black appointments. Both models have 6-inch barrels and integral muzzle brakes, which will replace the add-on brakes Magnum Research previously offered. Both list for $1,931 and are scheduled to ship during first quarter of 2016.

Handily, the integral muzzle brake makes the new models the same overall length as the company's standard 6-inch-barrel handgun, so the same holsters will fit the new models. The DE357SRMB and DE44SRMB also feature new Picatinny bottom rails for accessories.

Two Pistols That Will Be 'Out of This World'

Cabot Guns of Fort Wayne, Indiana, plans to offer a two-item set of pistols that are made from a 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite. The twin right- and left-handed 1911-style semi-automatic 45s have tentatively been called The Big Bang Pistol Set.

The pistols will likely be sold at auction. Cabot has been offered $250,000 from a collector based on concept alone, but estimates on the value have ranged from $500,000 to over $1,000,000.

"It's both romantic and fascinating

— continued on page 32

— continued from page 2

job is to faithfully interpret and enforce the law of the Commonwealth. Virginians who have concealed-carry permits may lose the ability to protect themselves when traveling in 25 states. Instead of doing the job he was elected to do, Mark Herring continues to put the political goals of his liberal supporters ahead of sound legal judgment."

Speaking about the announcement, Deputy Majority Leader Todd Gilbert of Shenandoah said, "Attorney General Herring is endangering the lives of law-abiding Virginians as they travel for work, vacation, or to visit their families. Virginia's law on concealed-carry reciprocity was created in 1997, when Democrats controlled both houses of the state legislature. This law gives State Police the discretion to determine the states with which Virginia should have reciprocity agreements, based on consultation with the attorney general's office. There is no doubt in my mind, however, that the consultation provided by the attorney general in this matter is based purely on his partisan, political goal of denying law-abiding citizens the right to protect and defend themselves."

Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter of Prince William said, "People who lawfully carry a concealed firearm in Virginia want the confidence that when they travel to another state, that state recognizes the rights of Virginia citizens to protect themselves. The attorney general's unilateral action likely means that many of the 25 states involved in today's announcement will no longer recognize the legal rights of Virginia citizens." Lingamfelter is the chairman of the House Committee on Militia, Police & Public Safety. He added, "If the attorney general were truly interested in safety and security, he would have sat down with these states and resolved any potential issues instead of pulling the rug from under the feet of law-abiding Virginia citizens."

Border towns in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Maryland will be hardest hit, such as in downtown Bristol, which sits on the Virginia/Tennessee state line. State Street in Bristol divides the city into Virginia and Tennessee sections. Soon, that could mean permitted and carrying residents on the south side of the street in Tennessee become criminals if they cross over to the north side of the street in Virginia.

In response, the Virginia statehouse delegates began talk of defunding the AG's security detail. What's sauce for the goose, as they say.

● At the federal level, there's an even broader threat to civil rights for gun owners. H.R. 4269 is a U.S. House bill filed on Dec. 16, 2015, that aims "To regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes." According to the bill's own language, "This Act may be cited as the "Assault Weapons Ban of 2015." H.R. 4269's only purpose is to infringe on your rights by outlawing many top-selling handguns, shotguns, rifles, and accessories that have to do with semi-auto firearms. H.R. 4269 would ban any device or part that could "accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle." That means, potentially, that every part that we routinely approve of in Gun Tests — good triggers, normal-capacity magazines, helpful stock designs, lightweight handguards, you name it — could be subject to a broad reading of the bill, thus, to the whim of the BATFE. I remember the agency recently tried to ban a common 5.56mm round by altering the interpretation of a regulation, and I remember the agency has fought for years to keep from disclosing its full role in trafficking firearms to Mexican drug cartels. I realize H.R. 4269 will never make it out of committee, but if the House were controlled by another party, it dang sure could. It has happened before.

● While H.R. 4269 is a distant threat, the *Wrenn* case is a full-blown current disaster. The Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has undone years of litigation, finding a temporarily assigned visiting judge should not have heard the case of *Wrenn v. District of Columbia* regarding the right of citizens to carry handguns. Reason: An order entered by a judge without jurisdiction is "null," the court's decision said.

Backstory: Judge Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., of the Northern District of New York had ruled unconstitutional the District's requirement that applicants for a D.C. carry license provide "good reason" to carry. With this ruling, the D.C. Circuit has vacated Scullin's order, meaning the District's "may issue" standard is back in place.

From the decision: "Although the parties fully briefed the case on the merits, we will not reach the substantive issues raised in their original submissions, as we must dispose of the matter on jurisdictional grounds. The controlling fact in this case is the identity of the judge who decided it in the district court — The Honorable Senior United States District Judge Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., of the Northern District of New York. The difficulty in this case is evident from the office of the deciding judge. Judge Scullin is a Judge of the Northern District of New York, not of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia… Judge Scullin had no authority to decide this matter… We have no choice but to vacate the order entered, as it was beyond the jurisdiction of the issuing judge. So ordered."

This will have far-reaching effects. Had *Wrenn* stayed in place, it could have been used to bludgeon other "may issue" carry rules, which essentially allow a local official to tell citizens that they don't have a "good enough reason" to carry. The case will have to be reheard, so D.C. residents with carry licenses could have their permits revoked at any time. What is more likely, D.C. law enforcement simply won't renew any carry licenses until *Wrenn* is decided, once and for all. That will take years. GT

— *Short Shots continued from page 31*

to imagine that this meteor traveled across the heavens for four billion years before landing on Earth and is now being transformed into Cabot pistols," said Cabot founder and President Rob Bianchin. "The pistol set will be a modern work of functional art and the ultimate set of luxury guns."

To manufacture the pistol set, earlier this year Cabot acquired a 35-kg portion of the prized Gibeon meteor from famed meteor hunter and expert Robert Haag. The meteor, dated to an age of 4.5 billion years, was first discovered in the sub-Saharan part of Africa now known as Namibia in 1838. It is believed to have landed on Earth during pre-historic times. Meteorite materials aren't optimum for making firearms, so numerous technical problems have to be overcome. The Big Bang Pistol Set will debut during the NRA Annual Meeting in May.



Compiled by Gun Tests *staff.*

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- Newcomer 9mm handguns butt heads: Century Arms TP9sa CIA H G3277N RP9A versus Diamondback's DB9FS.
- 9mm Revolvers, Ruger LCR versus Taurus 905. Are these odd pairings of cartridge and firearm or a viable option for self defense?
- Box-Mag 12 Gauges: Russian Saiga versus Chinese Saiga. This test puts the Century Arms Catamount Fury and Fury II through similar tests as the high-capacity Izhmash Saiga underwent. What we learned suggests how they got their names.
- Precision-Rifle Showdown, 308 Win Bolt Actions: Firearm manufacturers have seen the uptick in long-range shooting interest and are rolling out products to meet the demand. We compare the Tikka T3 CTR and Ruger Precision Rifle 18001.
- Gauging the 20 for Home Defense: As it turns out, the 20 gauge is more than credible in this role. It isn't a 12 gauge, but the 20 offers good performance with lighter recoil. Tested: Federal Vital Shock 2582B 3-inch Magnum #2; Federal Vital Shock 2072B 3-inch Magnum #2, Winchester XB203 3-inch Magnum #3, Remington 20B3 2.75-inch #3, Remington Slugger 8-REM-SPHV20RS ½-ounce slug, and the Federal F203 Rs ¾-ounce slug.

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